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SECURITY INFORMATION

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT

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SUBJECT Reorganization of VPD Sternbuchholz

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1. The former VP-units of the HVA (Central Administration, training section) were reorganized as cadre-divisions by 20 January 1952. The new organization presents itself as follows:

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VP-Dienststelle (unit)	division
Kommando (detachment)	regiment
Abteilung (battalion)	battalion

The "regiment" was introduced as an intermediate unit between the former Abteilung and the platoon.

2. The division consists of:

3 infantry-regiments each consisting of  
3 battalions

1 artillery regiment, each consisting of  
3 artillery battalions and  
1 AA-battalion  
1 reconnaissance battalion  
1 tank battalion  
1 communications battalion  
1 engineers battalion  
1 truck battalion.

One infantry battalion comprises:

3 rifle companies and  
1 heavy machine gun platoon (directly subordinated to the battalion)

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Each infantry regiment also comprises in addition to the three battalions

- 1 reconnaissance company
- 1 communications company
- 1 engineers company
- 1 mortar battery
- 1 anti-tank battery
- 1 truck unit.

The latter units are under the direct command of the regimental HQ. The battalions of the artillery regiment are subdivided into 3 batteries and 1 HQ battery. The former 5th special battalion (AA) was put under the direct command of the artillery regiment as the 4th battalion. It consists of 3 batteries each of which comprises 3 fire platoons with 2 guns each.

The battery of the artillery battalion consists of:

- 1 leading platoon
- topographical platoon
- 1 sound- and light measuring team and
- 2 fire platoons with 2 guns each.

3. The former special battalions, 4 (anti-tank) and 6 (heavy mortars), were dissolved and apportioned among the infantry regiments. Appointment of officers for the VPD Sternbuchholz was made in accordance with the new organization. The necessary officers are available. There is, however, a shortage of N.C.O.s and men. It is not intended, for the time being, to replenish the division.
4. The present total strength of the VPD Sternbuchholz is approximately 1,000 men. The 2nd regiment with 287 men, is the strongest regiment in the division. One hundred and fifty men, who had served the obligatory 3 years, were recently released without any difficulties. Approximately 400 men were transferred to officer's training schools; the majority were sent to the VPS Naumburg, the minority to the VPS Pinnow. Twenty-four new recruits were admitted during February. All recruits serve in one company of the 3rd regiment. Two new barracks will be erected in order to add to the billeting space.
5. Armament

The VPD has at its disposal the following heavy arms and armored vehicles:

- 1) 1 howitzer, 12.2 cm (Soviet origin)
- 2 guns, 7.62 cm (Soviet origin)
- 2 light field howitzers 18 (German, not in working order)
- 1 AA-gun 2 cm (German)
- 2) Armored vehicles
- 1 T 34 tank
- 1 ammunition truck (British)
- 1 armored patrol car (4 wheels, Soviet origin)

#### 6. Motor pool

- 5 Ifa-Horch trucks
- 2 SJS trucks
- 6 passenger cars (various types)
- 1 bucket car

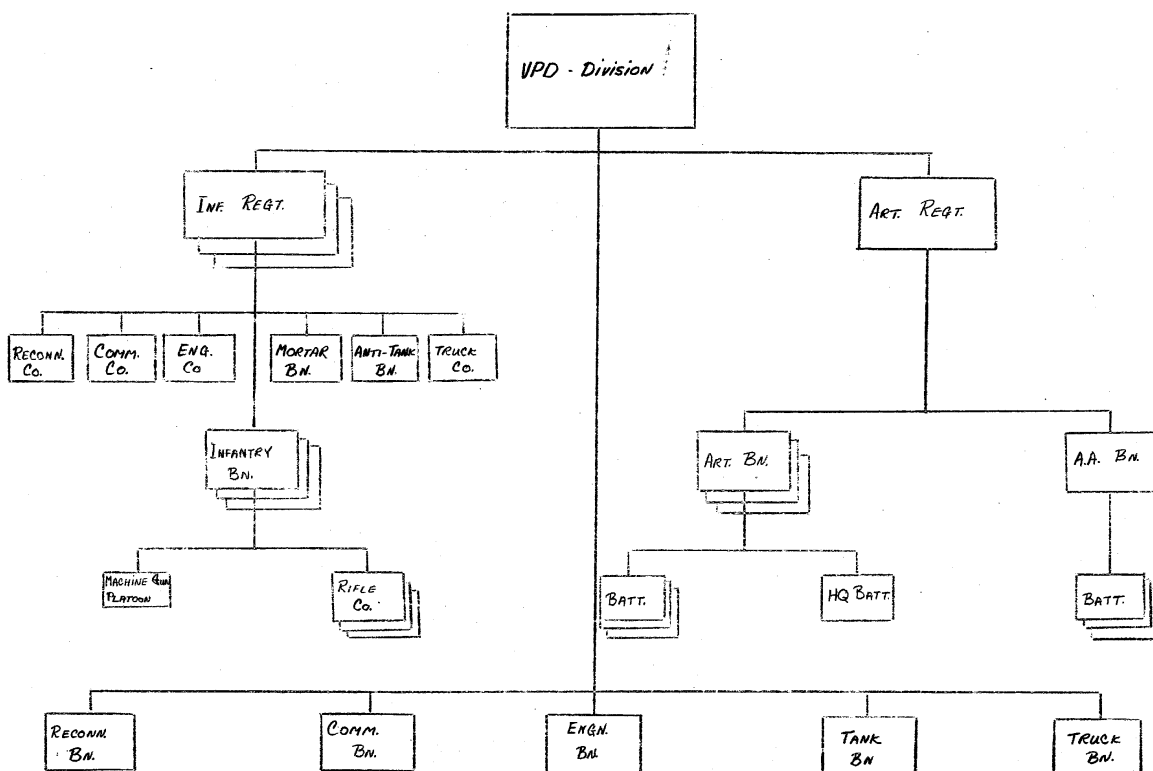
At the beginning of February 18 new Ifa-Horch trucks were delivered and allocated to the infantry regiments. Each infantry regiment has now 6 new trucks in its truck unit. The reconnaissance battalion was also allocated 2 HQ cars (Ifa-Horch) at the beginning of February. The latter vehicles are special purpose cars (box-type trucks with office equipment). Delivery of 10 motor-cycles (BMW) for the reconnaissance battalion was announced. At the beginning of February the engineers battalion was equipped with 1 Diesel pile driver for bridge construction. At the same time each of the three engineer companies of the infantry regiments were equipped with 6 tool chests.

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